



May XX, 2016

**Contact Name:**  
**Phone number:**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Click It or Ticket***  
**Extra officers on the lookout for unbuckled motorists**

Beginning May 23 (NAME OF POLICE AGENCY) will conduct stepped up seat belt enforcement in an effort to increase seat belt use and saves lives. The extra patrols in (NAME OF TOWN/COUNTY) are part of the *Click It or Ticket* national seat belt mobilization through June 5.

According to the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center, in 2015, 188 people who died in traffic crashes in Michigan were not wearing their seat belts. Using a seat belt reduces the risk of injury or death in a traffic crash by 45 percent.

"Seat belts are the single best defense in the event of a crash and the easiest safety feature in your vehicle to use," said (DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON). "To help encourage compliance, law enforcement officers will be strictly enforcing the state's seat belt law over the next couple of weeks."

During the 2015 Memorial Day holiday period, eight people died in traffic crashes. This is a significant decrease from the 20 fatalities during the 2014 Memorial Day holiday period.

Michigan law requires drivers, front seat passengers and passengers 15 and younger in any seating position to be buckled up. Children must be in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall. Children under 4 years old must be in the back seat.

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning is coordinating the effort which is supported by federal traffic safety funds. Grant-funded seat belt enforcement is part of Michigan's Strategic Highway Safety Plan signed by Gov. Rick Snyder in 2013.